

REGIONAL EDITION

UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

Editorial

The aim of the Swiss Review is to represent the Swiss diaspora the length and breadth of the UK and Ireland. On the whole, I think, we publish a good balance of stories from all corners, except for Northern Ireland. The Green Isle has, for whatever reason, proved elusive. So I was thrilled when Franziska Hewitt, Honorary Consul in Northern Ireland agreed to share her experiences of life in Belfast.

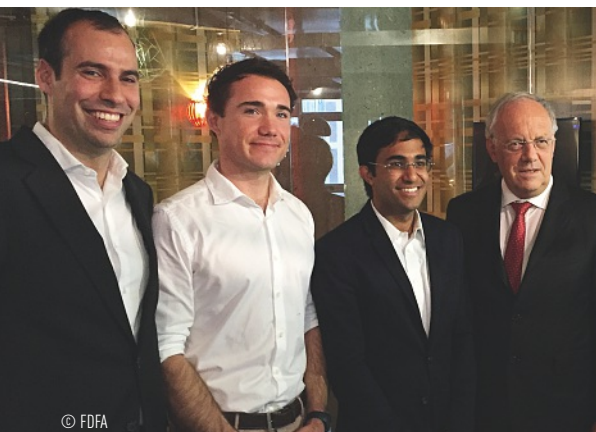
■ *We'll also be talking maps, or to be more precise, we'll be travelling Around Switzerland in 80 Maps. From medieval times to modern day the Swiss landscape has fascinated*

cartographers. Some maps, such as the German invasion plans of 1940 or the sex map of Zurich in the 1970s, have rarely been published before. Others are more well-known; for example, the Bärenkarte of Bern from 1700. Each design is a snapshot of a moment in the life of Switzerland.

■ In recent years London has established itself as the digital capital of Europe. Now thanks to the Swiss embassy and an innovative business initiative, young Swiss entrepreneurs are setting up camp here and being given full exposure to the capital's high tech start-ups.



ANDREW LITTLEJOHN,
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»



Federal Councillor
with the three
start-up
entrepreneurs

News: Swiss start-ups broaden their horizons

In November, Federal Councillor Johann Schneider-Ammann, Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER), visited London to officially launch a programme to promote Swiss start-ups in the UK.

Business: Fanpictor scores big

Zurich-based start-up Fanpictor has benefited from its involvement in the CTI Market Entry Camp UK. Co-founder and CEO, Stephan Schuerer, was convinced the Swiss embassy-led initiative had opened doors for his sports-based design company.

‘The sporting world is not an area many people have access to if you are not an athlete. But through the embassy, we were put in touch with commercial

directors who shared a mutual passion for sport. As a result we have signed an agreement with a UK-based representative to build on our experiences here.’

Fanpictor is a tool that helps sports fans and sponsors all over the world create and choreograph designs and images in sports stadiums live during the competition. Schuerer believes passionately that these big-time spectator choreographies could revolutionise in-game entertainment.

The UK offers many opportunities for savvy young entrepreneurs looking to broaden their market access. For this reason, the Swiss Embassy (in collaboration with the Swiss innovation Agency CTI) has set up a CTI Market Entry Camp UK to help Swiss start-ups engage with UK-based high tech markets and stakeholders.

Lutz-Peter Berg, Science & Technology Attaché at the Embassy of Switzerland in London told start-upticker.ch how early stage start-ups can benefit from these camps.


‘This represents a great opportunity (for companies) to test and fine tune their product and business plan in a different language, culture and business environment to see whether it can go global.’

The young Swiss entrepreneurs are given access to a shared workspace in the main tech cluster in London EC1 and there are opportunities to spend time in science parks in Oxford or Cambridge.

Three Swiss start-ups, Oviva (food consultancy), Fanpictor (recreation/ sports) and Goodwall (education), who have benefited from this programme, presented their companies to the audience of journalists, investors, and tech specialists who attended the launch.




The mosaic ‘Together’ at the Amex Stadium, Brighton




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Books: The shape of Switzerland

Switzerland is a country that shouldn't really exist. It defies nature, both Mother and human, with borders that make no geographic, linguistic or political sense. And yet, its national borders have remained unchanged since 1815, which is quite an achievement in Europe. For 200 years Switzerland has kept its borders while countries all around it were changing shape every few decades.

It was that fact, as well as my love of maps, that gave me the idea for my latest book *Around Switzerland in 80 Maps*. If ever there was a country that needed maps to explain its history, geography, politics and people, then that country is Switzerland. Maps fill the gap between art and information – the perfect vehicle for bringing Swiss history to life.

I started at the very beginning, with the oldest existing map of Switzerland, drawn in 1479 by Albrecht von Bonstetten, a monk in Einsiedeln. It's remarkably simple, showing only a circular Switzerland centred on Mt Rigi and surrounded by a ring of blue heavens dotted with golden stars, as if Switzerland were the only place on earth. How ironic that over 500 years later, Switzerland is an island surrounded by a sea of star-studded blue, in the shape of the EU flag.

Most of the maps in the book came from archives in Switzerland, either cantonal or private. Some, such as the German invasion plans of 1940 or the sex map of Zurich in the 1970s, have rarely been published before. Others are more well-known. For example, the *Bärenkarte* of Bern from 1700, showing the whole canton in the shape of a bear. I love it because it is so creative, not just with the shape but with the truth: Fribourg (then surrounded by Canton Bern) is left off the map completely, as it would have spoiled the design.

From medieval maps laboriously created by hand to modern maps produced for a digital age, each one is a work of art and also a snapshot of a moment in the life of Switzerland.

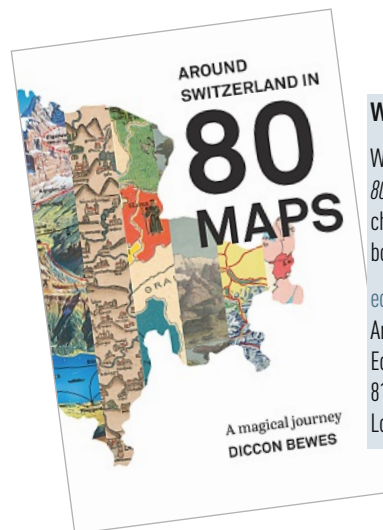
DICCON BEWES



It's a bear and it's a map. It's a bear map, or the famous Baerenkarte of Bern, which is as beautiful as it is political

Diccon Bewes has lived in Switzerland for 11 years and written three books about the country: *Swiss Watching*, *Slow Train to Switzerland* and now *Around Switzerland in 80 Maps*.

You can follow Diccon via his website (www.dicconbewes.com), his Facebook page (facebook.com/SwissWatching) or Twitter (@dicconb).



Win a prize!

We have one copy of *Around Switzerland in 80 Maps* to give away. If you would like the chance to win this copy of Diccon's latest book contact the editor by the 28th February.

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SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

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For the past three centuries, you have helped us to enhance the quality of life of fellow Swiss, old and young, from all walks of life, who are experiencing difficulties.

Thank you to all of our past and current donors and supporters. However, if we are to continue this work, we need your help now.

To donate or find out how else you can help, please visit our website www.swissbenevolent.org.uk or contact:

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Swiss Church: We need your support!

Over the next two years, the Swiss Church in London will gradually lose its funding from the Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches, a major contributor towards its running costs.

From 2018, the church, situated halfway between Covent Garden and Holborn, will have to be financially independent raising a minimum of £80,000 annually. The Board of Trustees (Consistoire) is currently striving to develop a fundraising strategy to secure the long-term future of the Swiss Church. Sadly, our existing funds and reserves will not meet our costs for the future. There is also currently no bail-out strategy in place should the fundraising efforts fail. The Swiss Church in London has been part of the life of the Swiss colony in London for over 250 years. This is not just a crucial moment for Swiss Church members, but for the Swiss expat community as a whole, and we will have to consider together if and how we want to further the life of this historic institution.

If you are in a position to support the Swiss Church financially, or would like to share your ideas and visions, please contact info@swisschurchlondon.org.uk for more information.

Cooking lunch for the homeless



The Swiss Church would like to take this opportunity to thank Jeffrey Long MBE who walked the length of Hadrian's Wall in August to raise £548.80 for the church! His efforts also helped secure a further £2,000 from the Helvetica Masonic Lodge.

REV CARLA MAURER



Feature: Four Men on a Walk

There is a lot to be said for individuals who participate in charity events, none more so than my good friend Jeffrey Long MBE. 84 years young, Jeffrey, a life-long supporter of The Royal British Legion (TRBL), once again set about conducting a fundraising event. This time he was more specific in his cause with monies being directed to the Legion's Battle Back Appeal and the Swiss Church in London.

Throughout Jeffrey's years of fundraising he has been ably assisted by friends and work colleagues. However,

this time round he conveniently and scrupulously encouraged previous participants to join him on what was to be an 84 mile walk in his 84th year. AKA Hadrian's Wall. The walk was to be conducted walking West to East, over 6 days, covering on average 14-15 miles a day.

As a team of four, we walked the 84 miles passing through or crossing over in excess of 300 cattle gates, eating numerous cakes and plenty of hearty breakfasts. It was a great experience and one not to be taken lightly.

ALAN WANBON

Obituary: Martha Hodge 1920-2015

It is with great sadness that the Swiss Club Edinburgh announces the passing of its oldest member, Martha Hodge, better known to most of her friends as Marty or Mutti.

Martha Schindler, the youngest of nine children was born on February 6th 1920 in the village of Rubigen near Bern. She became a nursery nurse and like so many young Swiss she had the desire to

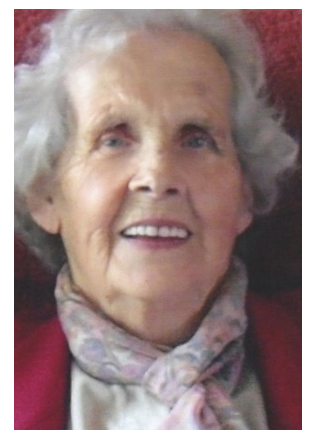
'spread her wings' and work abroad. In 1938, Marty came to Britain where she answered an advert in the Lady magazine for a position as a nanny to the Murray family in Selkirk, Scotland.

Marty led a very active life and travelled regularly to visit her daughters in Edinburgh and Las Vegas. Her son lived in Selkirk. Marty was actively involved with her grandchildren, whom she en-

tertained with her stories of childhood in Switzerland. It was through her eldest daughter Pamela, who lived with her sons in South Queensferry near Edinburgh, that she was introduced to the Swiss Club Edinburgh. We remember Marty as a lively elegant lady, always ready to join in. We all miss her greatly!

URSULA ROSS

SWISS CLUB EDINBURGH WELFARE



1: North Wales Swiss Club

We celebrated yet another great St.Nicolaus day in the Penrallt Church, Upper Bangor with around 30 attending. Even the big man himself made an appearance handing out 2 pressies for each child! We also heartily welcomed 3 new members: Laoise, Lisa and David OConnel.

BEATRICE SCHLEGEL

2: Southern Area Swiss Club

The Southern Area Swiss Club welcomed a record number of members at this year's Christmas Party.

Everybody brought a dish for the buffet and it is always a delight to choose between homemade Käseküechli, Wurstsalat, Linzertorte and Weihnachtsguetzli to name but a few of the delicious dishes displayed.

KARIN PRIER

3: Swiss Club Manchester

25 Adults and 16 children came to our annual Christmas Party. Everyone enjoyed the party food and Julie Baker, once again, came up trumps with the children's games. This year she was helped by our more grown up children who have all gone through the Samichlaus phase, but still enjoy a party. The bell tinkled, the lights went out (apart from the Christmas tree) and there was Father Christmas. In spite of storm Desmond he had made it!

Father Christmas spoke to each of the children in turn, looked in his big book, complimented them on their achievements and reminded them to clean their teeth, tidy their bedrooms and listen to their parents! The children went home happy and a great time was had by all.

SANDRA GLAUSER

4: Swiss Club Edinburgh

The 'Berner- and Zürcher Kontorei' visited Scotland in the autumn and gave a wonderful lunch-time concert, The Deluge, at St Giles' Cathedral, in the old town of Edinburgh.

The end of a great tour



Plenty of pressies for all



Lucy on the guitar



An attentive audience



After the Deluge



The choir was conducted by Johannes Günther and the programme featured operibus written by Heinrich Schütz (1585–1672) und Willy Burkhard's (1900–1955) The Deluge, hence the concert's title. It was good to see many members of the local Swiss club attending, as well as visitors and locals alike. Enthusiastic applause ended the well-attended lunch-time concert.

PETER MUELLER-MCDOUGALL
HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL

5: Swiss Club Manchester

Friedrich Engels, who with Karl Marx was one of the founding fathers of Communism, lived for over 20 years in Manchester in the mid-nineteenth century. He was born in 1820 in Wuppertal, Germany, and his story was brought vividly to life for 12 members of the Swiss Club Manchester by Ed Glinert, our well-informed guide.

Our tour took in the paupers' cemetery, now under Victoria Train Station, where in 1842 Engels formed his first impressions of the plight of the Victorian mill workers. We then visited Chetham's Library, where Engels would study and write, occasionally with Marx. At the Royal Exchange Theatre, formerly the cotton exchange, we heard how the young Engels, who was a junior employee at his father's cotton mill in Weaste, Salford, would associate with traders and test out his views on moving towards greater equality for the working classes.

In 1845, he published his masterpiece, 'The Condition of the Working Class in England'. Our tour finished at Manchester Cathedral, which was often the focus of workers' demonstrations in Victorian times. No doubt Mr Engels would have attended some of these himself, putting into practice his motto: 'An ounce of action is worth a ton of theory'.

JOHN WORTH

Music: From Classical to Jazz

C2J is a touring project with Swiss vibraphone virtuoso Jean-Lou Treboux in collaboration with the German piano player Olivia Trummer. The name of the project simply derives from *Classical to Jazz*. The two musicians, who will be on tour in Ireland in March, have taken music by Bach, Mozart and Scarlatti and tastefully created jazz inspired arrangements of the selected classical pieces.

C2J is a musical project the duo were always going to make. Treboux is a pure jazz artist. Music is in his bones. He's a master in the art of improvisation. Trummer having achieved international success as a jazz pianist, singer and songwriter now embraces her rich Classical upbringing, her early exposure to Classical music and her experience as a Classical piano soloist. Now for the first time both sides of these fascinating young artists come together in this exciting project.

Trummer and Treboux have already thrilled Classical and Jazz audiences alike with their unique musical style and spirited performances when they appeared at the Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele and Fränkischer Sommer in 2014 and Magdeburger Domfestspiele in 2015.



C2J will be touring Ireland from the 4th – 10th March. Details of venues, times and dates will be available on dublinjazz.ie. A recording project, C2J One, sponsored by Bayer Kultur, has been produced to coincide with the touring project.



Club News: FOSSUK AGM 2016

This year's FOSSUK AGM will be held on Saturday the 21st of May in Edinburgh at the historic Balmoral Hotel. The Edinburgh Swiss Club has organised an activity-filled weekend:

Friday evening: Acclaimed Swiss writer Regi Claire and her husband, poet and novelist Ron Butlin, entertain with engaging readings in the Scottish Poetry Library.

Saturday morning: A visit to the Scottish Parliament with our own personal guide.

Saturday afternoon: AGM begins at 2pm with guest speakers from Switzerland and the UK, as well as the opening address from Ambassador Dominik Furgler.

Saturday evening: Delicious 3-course dinner in the Balmoral Hotel's Beauty Room.

Sunday morning: A visit to Rosslyn Chapel followed by a wee dram at Glenkinchie Distillery before heading home.

Whether you are able to join us for the entire weekend or only for a part of it, this event will provide you with a wonderful opportunity to meet other club members living in the UK.

LOREDANA GUETG-WYATT, FOSSUK PRESIDENT

FOSSUK

AGM & Social Weekend
21 May 2016
Edinburgh

For more information go
to the **AGM section** of
swiss-societies.co.uk



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PASSPORTS AND IDENTITY CARDS

Information for Swiss nationals resident in IRELAND and NORTHERN IRELAND

The Regional Consular Centre in London (RCC) wishes to inform you that a staff member will visit Dublin (Swiss Embassy) with the mobile biometric station on the following dates:

9 to 13 May 2016
10 to 14 October 2016

Since the introduction of the biometric passport it has been necessary for applicants to attend in person. The mobile biometric passport station permits biometric data to be recorded for the issuing of identity documents (passports and/or identity cards) in the Swiss Embassy in **Dublin**.

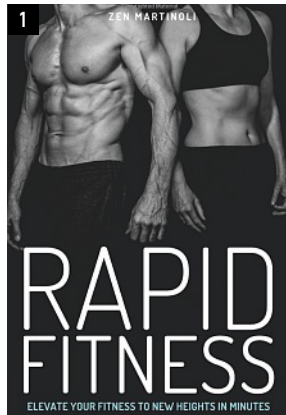
If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, **please contact the RCC** to book an appointment, tel. +44 (0)20 7616 6000 (option 2), or rcclondon@eda.admin.ch

Book Review 1: Rapid Fitness, by Zen Martinolli

No gym? No time? No problem! Rapid Fitness is exclusively designed for you!

Contained within the book is a collection of short, convenient, high-intensity – or ‘rapid’ – workouts intended for men and women who have already achieved a significant level of fitness. If you don’t fall into this bracket (e.g. you are mostly sedentary) you would be better suited to my first book 5-Minute Fitness.

The rapid-workouts, which typically last between five and fifteen minutes, can be employed anywhere at any time, require no equipment and use bodyweight only (a stopwatch is required for timed workouts). They are specifically designed to deliver improvements to both your aerobic and anaerobic fitness.



Book Review 2: Apple Queen, by Alexandra Lavizzari

Shocking secrets come to light in an idyllic Somerset village when the new Apple Queen is crowned.

Crime novel, horror story and thriller in one, Apple Queen taps into the old pagan beliefs of rural England and digs beneath the surface of apparently harmless village customs. The annual wassailing ceremony, which is supposed to guarantee a good crop of cider apples, is not all that it seems in sleepy Southcombe.

Book Review 3: Epitaph for a Working Man, by Erhard von Büren

This book offers readers a vivid, unsentimental yet intensely moving portrayal of an old man who, in spite of his failing health, stubbornly continues to actively enjoy life – going to the pub, smoking and drinking, doing stonemason’s jobs, observing and commenting on the people around him.

Set in 1980s Switzerland, Erhard von Büren’s account, written from the viewpoint of the son, is dispassionate and occasionally harsh, but becomes a loving homage to the father. The whole of the old man’s life is encapsulated in his final year: his toughness and his weakness, his dedication, his roughness and his gentleness. This is a realistic and sometimes humorous story about life and death, environment and social relationships. Swiss author Erhard von Büren is the author of three novels. This is his first work to be translated into English.

Book Review 4: Über London und Neuseeland nach Eggiwil, by Simone Müller

It was the first time she left the tiny village of Eggiwil since she had moved back from England to Switzerland two years ago: On the 4th of June 2015, 101-year-old Claire Parkes-Bärfuss came to Bern in order to attend the launch of her biography. During many afternoons, Claire had told me her extraordinary life story.

After the early death of her father and several of her 14 siblings, her mother fell ill with tuberculosis and Claire came to a children’s home in Sursee. She started to work at the age of 15 and came to England in 1949 as a domestic help.

It’s certainly true when she says: ‘When I am talking of the past, I see everything very clearly in front of me. It is as if it’s happening again, here and now.’



Meet the Honorary Consuls:

Franziska Hewitt, Northern Ireland

My husband is from Belfast and this is where we decided to make our home. I moved here fifteen years ago, although my first visit was in 1990. When I first came here what were known as the ‘Troubles’ were on-going – that was four years before the first ceasefires and eight years before the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, which is the cornerstone of the peace process we have today.

I am sure like anybody coming from abroad, on my early visits here I was taken aback by what was happening – the terrible violence and the sight of armed soldiers patrolling the city streets were truly shocking. At the same time, it was remarkable how people got on with their lives, with work, family and friends – all the aspects of normal life I was used to in Switzerland. I think that by then, the

beginning of the 1990s, there was a sense that although the violence had not stopped, there was already a movement towards peace. I know from speaking to my husband how much worse the ‘Troubles’ had been back in the 1970s and 80s.

How has the situation in Northern Ireland impacted on the Swiss community over the years?

There is only a small Swiss community in Northern Ireland. I am in contact with approximately 150 people who live here and many of them are second or third generation Swiss. Obviously the ‘Troubles’ discouraged international companies from investing in Northern Ireland. However, I know of Swiss families who came from St. Gallen many years ago to work in the textile industry. Of course there are business contacts now and I am encouraged by any

initiatives that help develop contacts in the work environment, not least a recently established vocational training programme that allows young people from Switzerland to come here and gain experience with local businesses. Obviously there are also Swiss people who, like myself, came to Northern Ireland for family reasons, but whatever the reason for being here, I value opportunities for us all to get together on social and cultural occasions, such as the Swiss Ambassador’s concert in Belfast.

What have been your highlights of living in Northern Ireland?

There are individual moments or experiences that I could think of, but the real highlight has been the opportunity to get to know so many people from Northern Ireland and to appreciate their many qualities.



Steam train ride to Inch Abbey

Planning ahead. Are you prepared?

It is vital to plan for retirement. But are you getting the right information? In an effort to help you make the right choices the Swiss Review will put your questions to a financial expert.

It may be about Inheritance Tax, pension rules or handling probate. The aim is to bring clarity to what might seem a complex matter. Send your questions to editor@swissreview.co.uk

IMPRESSUM

HOW TO CONTACT THE EDITOR: Reports of Swiss society activities, news, coming events, correspondence, articles and advertising for the ‘Switzerland in the UK & Ireland’ section of the Swiss Review, should go to the editor:

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Next Issues

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